

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Sub SEC 1

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a first audio input/output connector;  
at least one second audio input/output connector;  
an audio controller;  
a circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller;  
at least one circuit coupling at least one second audio input/output connector to the audio controller;  
a device including a transistor triggered by a switch integrated into one of the connectors for localizing a grounding source and mitigating noise, the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector; and  
a direct-current blocking cap including a filter circuit coupled with an inverting amplifier, wherein the device is coupled between the direct-current blocking cap and a primary audio input/output coupling.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector comprises a field effect transistor.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the transistor is ~~a field effect transistor comprising~~ comprises a drain, a source, and a gate, wherein the drain is coupled to the first audio input/output connector, the source is coupled to ground, and the gate is coupled to at least one second audio input/output connector such that current flows into the gate when an audio input/output device is coupled to a second audio input/output connector to which the gate is coupled.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the device ~~electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector~~ switch comprises a mechanical switch.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

7. (Original) . The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the second audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:  
a processor;  
a memory coupled to the processor;  
an audio controller coupled to the processor;  
a first audio input/output connector coupled to the audio controller;  
at least one second audio input/output connector coupled to the audio controller;

a device including a transistor triggered by a switch integrated into one of the connectors for localizing a grounding source and mitigating noise, the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from a circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector; and

a direct-current blocking cap including a filter circuit coupled with an inverting amplifier, wherein the device is coupled between the direct-current blocking cap and a primary audio input/output coupling.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector comprises a field effect transistor.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 9, wherein the transistor is a ~~field effect transistor comprising~~ comprises a drain, a source, and a gate, wherein the drain is coupled to the first audio input/output connector, the source is coupled to ground, and the gate is coupled to at least one second audio input/output connector such that current flows into the gate when an audio input/output device is coupled to a second audio input/output connector to which the gate is coupled.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the ~~device electrically decoupling the first audio input/output connector from the circuit coupling the first audio input/output connector to the audio controller when an audio~~

~~input/output device is coupled to at least one second input/output connector switch is a mechanical switch.~~

*Sub*  
13. (Original) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the first audio input/output connector is a jack.

14. (Original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein the second audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

15. (Original) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the second audio input/output connector comprises a jack.

16. (Cancelled).